MANITOBA

FIREARM ACCIDENTS

REPORT

Hunting and Non-Hunting
1996

Hunter and Firearm
Safety Program

Manitoba
Natural Resources

100-04625/

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Department of Natural Resources acknowledges the assistance provided by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Municipal Police Forces who provided information for this Firearm Accident Report. It is through these organizations that detailed information on each firearm accident was obtained.

Prepared by
Glen Clark and Helen Moler
Hunter and Firearm Safety Program

Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Municipal Police Forces requiring additional accident report forms please write to the Coordinator, Hunter and Firearm Safety Program, Box 44, 200 Saulteaux Crescent, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3J 3W3, or phone 945-6644.

SUMMARY

During 1996 there were 8 firearm related accidents compared to 15 in 1995 and 9 in 1994. Two of these accidents were self-inflicted. There was one hunting related fatal accident. Only one of the accidents involved shooters under 18 years of age, compared to 4 in 1995.

Two of the eight reported accidents were not directly related to hunting. Of the six remaining accidents, five occurred during a licenced hunting season.

Of the 8 reported accidents, 3 occurred at a distance of less than ten yards, three at a distance of 10-50 yards, one at a distance of 50-100 yards and one at 100 yards or more. There were no accidents involving a loaded firearm in a vehicle. Three of the eight accidents involved a graduate of a Hunter Safety Program - one of them fatal. Three of the accidents involved graduates of the Canadian Firearm Safety Course.

The Manitoba Hunter Safety course was completed by 2,086 students in 1996, down slightly from the 2,381 in 1995. 126,030 students have now graduated from the program since it began in 1964. Of the total, 154 have later become involved in a firearm accident which represents only .12%.

CAUSE OF ACCIDENTS

	1995	1996
Victim out of sight of shooter.	1	1
Victim moved into line of fire.	0	0
Victim covered by shooter swinging on game.	1	1
Victim mistaken for game.	0	3
Shooter stumbled and fell.	3	0
Using firearm as club.	0	1*
Trigger caught on bush or other object.	1	0
Loaded firearm in vehicle.	1	0
Firearm fell from insecure rest.	0	0
"Horseplay" and/or "didn't know it was loaded".	2	0
Crossing fence or other obstacle with loaded firearm.	0	0
Loading.	1	0
Unloading.	0	0
Defective firearm	1	1
Cleaning firearm	1	0
Loaded firearm in the home.	0	0
Accidental discharge.	2	0
Ricochet.	1	0
Other	0	1
* Indicates fatal accident		
Total	15	8

Average firearm accidents per year in 5 year increments since Hunter Safety Program commenced.

1964-1968	44.2
1969-1973	56.0
1974-1978	53.6
1979-1983	42.8
1984-1988	26.4
1989-1993	20.4
1994-1996	10.6

SYNOPSIS OF 1995 AND 1996 FIREARM ACCIDENTS

	1995	1996
A. Total Number of Accidents	15	8
Fatal	0	1
Non-fatal	15	7
B. 1) Hunting Legally During Regular Season	1	5
Fatal	0	1
Non-fatal	1	4
2) Treaty Indian Hunting	5	2
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	5	2
3) Hunting Small Animals, Birds, or Illegal Hunting	3	0
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	3	0
4) Non-hunting Accidents	6	1
Fatal in the home	0	0
Fatal in a vehicle	0	0
Fatal outside home	0	0
Non-fatal in the home	4	0
Non-fatal in a vehicle	0	0
Non-fatal outside the home	2	1
C. Shooter Unknown	0	0
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	0
D. Accidents Involving Shooter under 18 years of age	4	1
All Types of Hunting	0	0
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	0
Non-hunting	4	1
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	4	1

TYPE OF FIREARM INVOLVED

	1995	1996
A. .22 calibre Rim Fire Rifle	**8**	**1**
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	8	1
B. Centre Fire Hi Power Rifle	**2**	**0**
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	2	0
C. Shotgun	**4**	**7**
Fatal	0	1
Non-fatal	4	6
D. Hand Gun	**1**	**0**
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	1	0
E. Pellet Gun	**0**	**0**
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	0
F. Unknown/Other Muzzle Loader	**0**	**0**
Fatal	0	0
Non-fatal	0	0
Total	15	8

DISTANCE OF VICTIM FROM SHOOTER

	1995	1996
0 to 10 yards	12	3
10 to 50 yards	2	3
50 to 100 yards	1	1
over 100 yards	0	1
Distance Unknown	0	0

OCCURRENCES

Time of Day	1995	1996
Midnight - 3:00 a.m.	2	1
3:00 a.m. - 6:00 a.m.	1	0
6:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	4	2*
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	0	2
12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m.	1	0
3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	5	2
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	2	0
9:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight	0	0
Unknown	0	1
By Day		
Sunday	6	1
Monday	3	2*
Tuesday	0	0
Wednesday	1	1
Thursday	2	1
Friday	2	0
Saturday	1	3
By Month		
January	0	0
February	0	0
March	0	0
April	3	0
May	3	0
June	0	0
July	2	0
August	0	0
September	3	2*
October	2	6
November	0	0
December	2	0

* Indicates one or more fatal

COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF HUNTING LICENSES SOLD

	GAME BIRD	BIG GAME	TOTAL
1964	45,974	31,716	77,690
1970	45,822	47,156	92,978
1975	48,687	11,606*	60,293
1980	58,091	60,505	118,596
1985	35,342	52,541	87,883
1990	34,571	60,006	94,577
1995	24,504	67,639	92,143
1996	24,789	71,955	96,744

*indicates closed deer season

COMPARISON OF TOTAL FIREARM ACCIDENTS-LICENSED HUNTING ACCIDENTS WITH TOTAL HUNTING LICENCES ISSUED

YEAR	TOTAL LICENSES ISSUED	TOTAL FIREARM ACCIDENTS	LICENCED HUNTING ACCIDENTS
1980	118,596	22	6
1985	87,883	26	7
1990	94,577	22	6
1995	92,143	15	1
1996	96,744	8	5

SUMMARY OF 1996 ACCIDENTS

The following summary of accidents related to the use of firearms serves as a useful lesson for everyone who enjoys shooting sports. Hunter Safety Instructors and their students should make a special effort to study each incident and analyze how the accident occurred. In most cases, one or more of the 10 commandments of Hunter Safety were violated. Don't let you or your friends be the cause of an accident recorded in next year's report.

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS OF HUNTER SAFETY

1. WATCH THAT MUZZLE! Carry your gun safely; keep safety on until ready to shoot.
2. TREAT EVERY GUN WITH THE RESPECT DUE A LOADED GUN.
3. UNLOAD GUNS WHEN NOT IN USE, take down or have actions open; guns should be carried in cases to shooting area.
4. BE SURE BARREL IS CLEAR OF OBSTRUCTIONS, and that you have ammunition only of the proper size for the gun you carry.
5. BE SURE OF TARGET BEFORE YOU PULL TRIGGER; know identifying features of game you hunt.
6. NEVER POINT A GUN AT ANYTHING YOU DO NOT WANT TO SHOOT; avoid all horseplay.
7. NEVER CLIMB A TREE OR FENCE OR JUMP A DITCH WITH A LOADED GUN; never pull a gun toward you by the muzzle.
8. NEVER SHOOT A BULLET AT A FLAT, HARD SURFACE OR WATER; at target practice be sure your backstop is adequate.
9. STORE GUNS AND AMMUNITION SEPARATELY, beyond reach of children.
10. AVOID ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES before or during shooting.

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Sunday Sept. 22	S - Unknown V - 37	No	22 cal. rifle	100 or more yds.	Deer	No	Shooter pushing bush, shot at deer; victim hit in nose.
Monday Sept. 23 7:30 pm	S - 19 Self Inflicted	Yes	Shotgun	0 - 10 yds	Geese	Yes	Used firearm as a club, after wounding goose, chest wound.
Thursday October 10 4:00 pm	S - 33 V - 40	No	12 gauge shotgun	0 - 10 yds	Ducks	Yes	While hunting ducks, dog (belonging to shooter) in boat being pulled by shooter & victim was spooked and knocked gun over which discharged striking victim in right arm.
Saturday October 12 10:30 am	S - 33 V - 29	No	12 gauge shotgun	10-50 yds	Rabbits & Grouse	Canadian Firearm Safety Course Graduate	Both victims exited a small bush. Shooter exited 30 yds away, heard grass rustle, swung around and pulled trigger. 1st victim blind in right eye, 30 pellets in left side of upper body including head but no permanent damage. Other victim - one pellet in left bicep, no permanent damage.
Saturday October 12 10:30 am	S - 33 V - 27	No	12 gauge shotgun	10-50 yds	Rabbits & Grouse	Canadian Firearm Safety Course Graduate	

DATE & TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A HUNTER SAFETY GRADUATE	CIRCUMSTANCES
Saturday October 12 1:30 pm	S - 67 V - 59	No	Shotgun	10 - 50 yds	Not hunting at time of accident	Canadian Firearm Safety Course Graduate	Victim and shooter were camping on way back from hunting trip. Victim went out for a whiz and to check boat, shooter woke up and heard something outside the tent, shot out the doorway of tent resulting in shotgun wound to forearm.
Monday October 14 6:00 pm	S - 17 Self Inflicted	No	12 gauge shotgun	0 - 10 yds	Non-hunting	Yes	Victim target practicing - first 2 shots were fine, last shot exploded taking off tip of left ring finger.
Wednesday October 16 8:30 am	S - 61 V - 51	No	Shotgun	50-100 yds	Geese	No	Shooter hit victim when swinging and firing on goose. Victim hit by several pellets but only some bruising and slight laceration to cheek.